



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

May 21, 2018

To: Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

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REPORT BACK ON MOBILE SHOWER PILOT NEAR HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS (ITEM NO. 11, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 13, 2018)

On February 13, 2018, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in collaboration with the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and other County departments as needed, to work with Lava Mae to establish a mobile shower pilot program at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and with the Shower of Hope to establish a mobile shower pilot program in East Pasadena. The Board also directed DPR to enter into any necessary, non-financial agreements with Lava Mae to enable the deployment of a mobile shower in Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. Finally, the Board directed the CEO, in collaboration with LAHSA and the mobile shower providers, to report back on the effectiveness of the programs 90 days after their launch. This memorandum responds to the Board's directives.

Status of Mobile Shower Pilots

On March 29, 2018, the mobile shower pilot program launched at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. Leading up to the launch of the pilot, CEO worked with Lava Mae, LAHSA, Los Angeles Sherriff's Department's Homeless Outreach Services Team (LASD HOST), DPR, Supervisorial District 1, DPH, Operation Healthy Hearts (a community group that hosts weekly events for homeless and low-income individuals and families), and various service providers in the area to plan for the launch, secure necessary permits, ensure the safe and sanitary operation of facilities, and address logistical issues.

Due to challenges with siting, the launch of the mobile shower pilot program in East Pasadena was delayed until May 9, 2018. CEO worked with Supervisorial District 5, Shower of Hope, LASD HOST, LAHSA, DPH, Operation Healthy Hearts, and other service providers and stakeholders in the area to plan for the launch.

Both pilots operate once per week. Capitalizing on the opportunity for engagement presented by the mobile shower programs, both pilots have brought together numerous service providers who are working with shower participants to connect them to services and housing resources.

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area Shower Pilot Outcomes

In the first six weeks of operation, the number of individuals utilizing Lava Mae showers at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area steadily increased to nearly full utilization. The showers are available for four hours, during which time they can serve approximately 36 participants, if fully utilized. Table 1 provides information about the number of showers taken each week of the shower pilot.

Table 1

Date	Showers taken
March 29, 2018	18
April 5, 2018	22
April 12, 2018	22
April 19, 2018	35
April 26, 2018	34
May 3, 2018	32

Since the March 29 launch, the following services and service providers have been present at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in conjunction with the mobile shower pilot:

- Homeless Outreach Teams (Two of the following teams attend each week on a rotating basis: LAHSA's Homeless Engagement Teams, Union Station Homeless Services Team, and Department of Mental Health Team)
- Department of Public Social Services
- Public Defender (Criminal Record Clearing Clinic – Homeless Initiative Strategy D6)

- LASD HOST Team (transports people experiencing homelessness to shower pilot and engages with them at site)
- DPH (provides vaccinations and other health information)
- Aegis Treatment Center (provides substance use disorder counselling)
- Hair stylists
- Operation Healthy Hearts (provides hot meals, care packages, hygiene kits, pet care products, clothing, and other items)

On a weekly basis, an average of more than 100 individuals have utilized the services provided at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area during the shower pilot hours. While not all participants are interested in utilizing the mobile showers, the showers help to generate interest in the other engagement opportunities at the site. There have been no security issues thus far with the shower pilot.

Next Steps

The CEO will report back on the outcomes of the East Pasadena shower pilot within two months of its May 9, 2018 launch, and Lava Mae will continue to work with partners to operate the shower pilot in Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. Lava Mae's DPR permit for use of the Whittier Narrows site is valid until February 13, 2019. At this time, Lava Mae is able to continue to self-fund its operations at this site; therefore, no County costs will be incurred. Supervisorial District 1, Operation Healthy Hearts, and LASD HOST will work with Lava Mae to continue to bring together other service providers for the weekly events.

The CEO Office of Emergency Management (OEM) purchased six mobile shower trailers for use in the event of emergencies that would require access to mobile shower and toilet facilities. CEO OEM is interested in making one or more of the trailers available to expand the County's efforts to provide mobile hygiene facilities to individuals experiencing homelessness. In the event of an emergency that necessitates the use of the County's mobile shower trailers, they would be recalled from use for homeless services and re-deployed at the site where they are needed.

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To lay the foundation for utilization of the OEM showers to expand the County's mobile shower pilot, CEO Homeless Initiative and CEO OEM are taking the following steps:

- Identifying experienced homeless service providers capable of operating at least one of the trailers on a trial basis. The service provider would enter into a non-financial agreement with the County to utilize the shower trailer at no cost.
- Working with LAHSA and homeless service providers to identify potential sites within the County where there is a significant need for mobile shower services.
- Working with County Counsel and CEO Risk Management to assess any legal or liability issues that could arise.
- Identifying potential funding source(s) for the operation of the shower trailers.

If the Board directs the CEO to utilize the OEM showers to expand the County's mobile shower pilot, the CEO will move forward with any necessary agreements between the County, mobile shower providers, and other relevant departments or agencies, and then report back to the Board on the outcomes of the expanded shower pilot.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Ansell, Homeless Initiative Director, at (213) 974-1752 or by email pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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